

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 22, and 23 and cancel claims 3, 7, and 15, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Amended) A furniture system comprising:
 - a plurality of host structures, each host structure comprising at least one slot on a face of the host structure;
 - a plurality of cross supports; and
 - a plurality of devices carried by the cross supports for fastening the cross supports to the host structures, the devices comprising:
 - a locking body having an engagement member at a distal end present in a one of the slots of one of the host structures; and
 - a cam connected to the locking body which allows for securing the engagement member of the locking body in the slot;

wherein rotating the cam in a first direction causes a linear motion of the locking body which draws the cross support and host structure together and secures the cross support to the host structure.
2. (Amended) The furniture system of claim 1, wherein the locking body further comprising:
 - a ball for connecting the locking body to the cam located at a proximal end of the locking body; and
 - a central shaft between the ball and the engagement member.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The furniture system of claim 1, wherein each host structure comprises a geometrically configured tube.

5. (Amended) The furniture system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ each slot is formed from the surface of ~~the~~ each tube, and each ~~the~~ slot contains a narrower outer portion and a wider inner portion, wherein the engagement member is movable within the wider inner portion.

6. (Amended) The furniture system of claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ the edge of one of the plurality of cross supports engages ~~the~~ a wall of one of the plurality of host structures when the ~~fastening~~ device for fastening is secured.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The furniture system of claim 1, wherein the cam is embedded in one of the plurality of cross supports.

9. (Original) The furniture system of claim 1, wherein the furniture system is a cabinet for a home entertainment system.

10. (Original) An item of furniture comprising:
a plurality of geometrically extruded tubes, each tube containing at least one slot;
a plurality of cross supports; and
a plurality of fasteners contained in the cross supports connecting the geometrically extruded tubes and cross supports, each fastener comprising:
a mechanism for locking the fastener;
a reciprocating locking body; and
an engagement member contained within a slot of the geometrically extruded tube.

11. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 10, wherein the mechanism for locking the fastener comprises a cam attached to the reciprocating locking body.

12. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 11, wherein the engagement member is vertically movable within the slot when the cam is in a first position, and the engagement member is in a fixed position when the cam is in a second position.

13. (Amended) The item of furniture of claim 10, wherein all cross supports are comprise vertical panels.

14. (Amended) A structural assembly for constructing furniture for use in display and home entertainment comprising:

a plurality of like host structures containing slots defined by surfaces of the host structures;

a plurality of cross supports containing a plurality of locking mechanisms imbedded in the cross supports to fasten the cross supports to the host structures, wherein the locking mechanisms comprise:

a reciprocating locking body with an engagement member for securing the locking body to a slot of the host structure; and

a cam attached to the locking body which provides a reciprocating motion of the locking body.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Amended) The structural assembly of claim 14, wherein the locking body further comprises:
a ball for connecting the locking body to the cam.

17. (Amended) An item of furniture constructed with plurality of corner host structures and a plurality of cross supports, each host structure comprising a rectangular geometrically extruded tube that contains a first slot on a first face of the tube and a second slot on a second face of the tube perpendicular to the first face, the item comprising:

- a first host structure;
 - a second host structure;
 - a third host structure;
 - a fourth host structure;
 - a front cross support mounted between the first host structure and second host structure;
 - a right cross support mounted between the second host structure and third host structure;
 - a back cross support mounted between the third host structure and fourth host structure;
 - a left cross support mounted between the fourth host structure and first host structure; and
- wherein the front, right, back, and left cross supports and the first, second, third, and fourth host structures form a free standing rectangular enclosure with an open top and open bottom; and
- wherein the front, right, back, and left cross supports are mounted and the first, second, third, and fourth host structures by fasteners comprising:
- a mechanism for locking the each fastener contained within each respective support panel;
 - a reciprocating locking body contained within each respective support panel; and
 - an engagement member contained within a either the first or second slot of the host structure.

18. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 17, wherein the front, right, back, and left cross supports comprise rectangular vertical panels.

19. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 18, wherein the vertical panels forming the front and back cross supports have similar dimensions.

20. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 18 wherein the mechanism for locking the fastener is a cam mounted in the cross support.

21. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 20 wherein each vertical panel contains at least four fasteners, with the cam of each of the four fasteners located proximate to a corner of the vertical panel.

22. (Amended) The item of furniture of claim 17 further comprising:

- a top panel mounted to the rectangular enclosure to cover the open top; and
- a bottom panel mounted to the rectangular enclosure to cover the open bottom.

23. (Amended) A piece of furniture made from an assembly structure comprising:

- a first vertical geometrically extruded tube containing a first slot, the first slot comprised of a pair of parallel struts extending outward from the an outer surface of the tube, and each strut containing an opposing segment[s] that protrudes perpendicular from the an end of the strut toward the a center of the first slot to define the a top of the first slot;
- a second vertical geometrically extruded tube parallel to the first vertical geometrically extruded; the second tube containing a second slot, the second slot comprised of a pair of parallel struts extending outward from the an outer surface of the tube, each strut containing an opposing segment[s] that

protrudes perpendicular from ~~the~~ an end of the strut toward ~~the~~ a center of the second slot to define the top of the second slot; and

a vertical support panel positioned between the first vertical geometrically extruded tube and second vertical geometrically extruded tube;

a first plurality of vertically spaced fasteners along a first edge of the vertical support panel, the fasteners comprising:

a cam contained in the vertical support panel; and

a locking member extending from the vertical support panel into the first slot in the first vertical geometrically extruded tube, and having at a distal end an engagement member that is vertically movable in the first slot when a the cam is in a first position, and that is in a fixed position when the cam is in a second position; and

a second plurality of vertically spaced fasteners along a second edge of the vertical support panel, the fasteners comprising:

a cam contained in the vertical support panel; and

a locking member extending from the vertical support panel into the second slot in the second vertical geometrically extruded tube, and having at a distal end an engagement member that is vertically movable in the second slot when a the cam is in a first position, and that is in a fixed position when the cam is in a second position.

24. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 23, wherein the item of furniture is comprised of two parallel assembly structures.

25. (Original) The item of furniture of claim 23, wherein the item of furniture is comprised of two perpendicular assembly structures, wherein the second vertical geometrically extruded tube of a first

assembly structure comprises the first vertical geometrically extruded tube of a second assembly structure.